

· closing the mold, a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed;

· compacting the sheet;

· trimming off a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed using at least one trimmer movable relative to said second portion; and

· unmolding the part.

11. (Twice Amended) A mold for forming a sheet of reinforced plastics material, the mold comprising:

first and second portions that are movable relative to each other;

at least one pusher mounted on the second portion and movable relative thereto so as to press said sheet at least locally against the first portion before the mold is closed; and

at least one trimmer movable relative to said second portion enabling the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane to be trimmed off once the mold is closed.

15. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other and suitable for defining a join plane of the mold, the method comprising:

· preheating the sheet;

· placing the preheated sheet on the first portion of the open mold;

· pressing the sheet against the first portion at at least one location using at least one pusher mounted on the second portion of the mold and movable relative to said second portion;

· closing the mold and compacting the sheet; and

- unmolding the part.

16. (Twice Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other and suitable for defining a join plane of the mold, the method comprising:

- preheating the sheet;
- placing the preheated sheet on the first portion of the open mold;
- pressing the sheet against the first portion at at least one location using at least one pusher mounted on the second portion of the mold and movable relative to said second portion;
- closing the mold, a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed;
- compacting the sheet;
- trimming of the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane; and
- unmolding the part.

17. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other, comprising:

- means for placing the sheet on the first portion of the open mold;
- means for pressing the sheet against the first portion at least one location using at least one pusher mounted on the second portion of the mold and movable relative to said second portion;
- means for closing the mold, a portion of the sheet projecting from the join plane after the mold has closed;
- means for compacting the sheet;

C⁴ means for trimming off the portion of the sheet that projects from the join plane comprising at least one trimmer movable relative to said second portion; and means for unmolding the part.

31. (Amended) A method of manufacturing a reinforced plastics material part from a sheet of drapable material by using a mold comprising first and second mold portions that are movable relative to each other and suitable for defining a join plane of the mold, and a plurality of pushers all movably mounted on the second mold portion, the method comprising:

- C⁵
- placing the sheet on the first portion of the open mold;
 - pressing the sheet against the first portion of the mold initially using at least one pusher situated substantially in the center of the mold, and then progressively using other pushers, a pusher furthest from the center of the mold being actuated last;
 - closing the mold;
 - compacting the sheet; and
 - unmolding the part.
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REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 15, 16, 17 and 31 are amended and claims 35 and 36 are canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-34 are pending. No new matter is added.

The attached Appendix includes marked-up copies of each rewritten claim (37 C.F.R. §1.121(c)(1)(ii)).

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 11, 15-18, 20, 22-24, 26, 27, 35 and 36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 05154868 A to Momotome. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 35 and 36 and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.